



Related Medlearn Matters Article #: MM3736

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### *Clarification to the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Language in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual*

#### Key Words

CR3736, MM3736, Health Professional Shortage Area, HPSA, Psychiatry, Critical Access Hospital, CAH

#### Provider Types Affected

Psychiatrists and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) billing Medicare carriers or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) in a HPSA

#### Key Points

- The effective date for the instruction is May 16, 2005.
- The implementation date is May 16, 2005.
- Medicare recognizes geographic-based, primary medical care, and mental health HPSAs as eligible areas for receiving bonus payments.
- A Medicare bonus payment is payable for all professional services provided by psychiatrists that they are licensed to provide in a mental health HPSA. (Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Pub. 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 90.4.5c – Language Clarification (CR3736).)
- Some carriers and FIs may have interpreted Medicare's instructions in such a way that they limited bonus payments in the mental health HPSAs to services that they determined were mental health services and may have initiated overpayment recovery actions for bonuses they determined to be paid incorrectly. CMS has determined that these actions are incorrect.
- Medicare carriers and FIs must:
  - Review any overpayment actions taken on mental health HPSAs;
  - Cancel overpayment recovery actions that were initiated and in progress;
  - Return any bonus payment to psychiatrists in mental health HPSAs that were incorrectly recovered in any overpayment actions taken since implementation of the HPSA mental health bonus payment on July 1, 2004; and
  - Make bonus payments for those services that were initially withheld.

## Important Links

MM3736: "Clarification to the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Language in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual" can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3736.pdf> on the CMS web site.

CR3736: "Clarification to the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Language in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual" can be found at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm\\_trans/R524CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R524CP.pdf) on the CMS web site.

MM3108: "Medicare Incentive Payments for Physician Care in Underserved Areas" can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3108.pdf> on the CMS web site.

MM3336: "Bonus Payments for Services in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)" can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3336.pdf> on the CMS web site.